

THE AVENGERS • RAY DONOVAN • COSPLAY

# MAD

IND



WE MOCK

minions

#534 AUGUST 2015 \$5.99 CHEAP!



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# MAD

## Departments

Cheating on  
your diet is a piece  
of cake — and  
vice versa!



NUMBER 534  
AUGUST 2015

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COVER ARTIST: MARK FREDRICKSON

# Letters and Tomatoes

## NOT-SO-DEAR JOHN

Recently my apartment was rehabbed and I had to box everything up. While getting ready for the bathroom to be painted, I pushed a stack of boxes to the center of the room. Well, I pushed too hard and a few things slid off the top of some boxes and (this really happened) my MAD from June 2014 landed in the toilet! I'm not sure what to make of it. Keep up the "good" work, you've been making me laugh (retch?) since 1971!

**Ken W. Reed • Berkeley, CA**

**Reedy or Not —** Let's not pretend for even a second that an issue of MAD is the most disgusting and damaging thing that's been in that toilet. We're guessing that if your landlord is rehabbing that bathroom it's because there's been irreparable, unmentionable, soul-churning damage rained down upon that cursed, God-forsaken slab of porcelain! Good luck getting your security deposit back, you monster! —Ed.



## NOT WORTH A CENTENARIAN

I am 72 years old and have been digesting your magazine for many years. I'm expecting to live to be 100 and when I achieve that milestone, I would expect a free subscription. I don't think my mailperson looks at the magazine when it comes in the mail but he does leave the door open on the mailbox, and I suspect my neighbors see it. Hmm... maybe that's why they shun me.

**Jim Lanctot • Indianapolis, IN**

**Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Lanctot —** We're happy to hear about your dedication to MAD as you creep into your wily dotage. But we have to point out two glaring factual errors in your letter: for one, very few MAD readers live to 100. Studies have shown that longtime MAD fans, with their distressing lack of hygiene, leper-like isolation and tenuous grip on reality, tend to peter out long before that. Second, we don't give free subscriptions to 100-year-olds. (We just put the policy in place so we could stiff Al Jaffee when he turns 100 in 2021 — he can pay for his issues like anyone else!) On a positive note, however, you're absolutely right about one thing — your neighbors are shunning you...and judging by your letter, it seems they're doing the right thing! Happy digesting! —Ed.

## LIKE MAD ON FACEBOOK!

We're on Facebook! You should go there and "Like" us. Go on... it'll make you feel good about the internet!



## PHILADELPHIA PRETZEL LOGIC

I'm seeking advice about my 11-year-old. She has been reading my MAD magazines. I know that I was reading MAD at her age, but as a parent it seems so inappropriate and I'm more concerned about being a good parent than I was about being a well-adjusted child. To make matters worse, she snuck a few issues to school after we warned her not to. What will happen to our reputation as good parents if it's found out that I've been reading MAD for 25 years? Growing up in Philly will be hard enough on her, with all the murders and failing sports teams. Should she be punished if this MAD behavior continues?

**Megan Polkus • Philadelphia, PA**

**High-Stakes Polkus —** Should she be punished? Of course she should be punished, and as harshly as humanly possible! Let's see...what's the maximum punishment that an 11-year-old can receive under current law...hmm. Okay, we've got it: force her to live in a sketchy, Eagles-fan-ridden hellhole with a couple of parents whose minds have been irrevocably damaged by decades of reading MAD! That should teach her to disobey you — if Child Services doesn't get to her first! —Ed.

## EPIC NAIL

They say you should dress for the job you want — so if you want to work at DC Entertainment, you darn well BETTER show up with some Spy vs. Spy nail art! New hire Sara Haskell landed a cherry job in the Subsidiary Rights Department because she displayed her corporate loyalty (despite also displaying her terrible taste in reading material)!



## CRAZED AND CONFUSED

Hello, or is it just hell? I live in the basement of a small shack. I have a long, unkempt beard with this morning's waffles attached to it. No job — who would hire someone with waffles in his/her beard? I have no car, how can you drive with waffles in your beard? I need a break and if you publish this letter it may spark me to attain a lot of goals like move upstairs, shave and look for a job, then maybe become President, then president of MAD. But all this hinges on this letter being published. You guys have great responsibility and power. In the meantime, I will be in basement. Need syrup — running low. Help!

**Mark Lambert • Eden Prairie, MN**

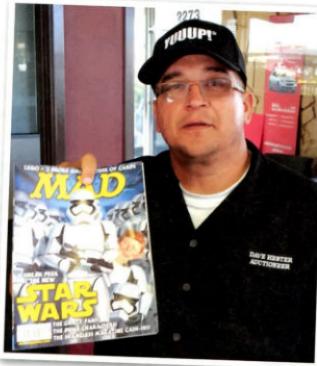
Alone in the Mark — At MAD, we always say that if we can change just one life, we've made a difference (not necessarily a change for the better, or a positive difference, but we don't have time to get into that right now). So if the publication of your incoherent ramblings will be the "spark" you need to clean yourself up and move into your shack's no-doubt spacious upper floors, well, we're happy to help. And who knows — maybe one day you really will "become President, then president of MAD"! Because goodness knows that America, and this magazine, wouldn't be any worse off if they were run by a filthy, waffle-bearded, basement-dwelling maniac. Good luck getting out of the cellar — we hope to see you soon, boss! —Ed.

## CELEBRITY SNAP

I have a car rental agency in Costa Mesa, CA.

I keep several copies of MAD on the counter to distract the drooling masses that wander into my establishment. One of your recent lampoonees — David Hester from *Storage Wars* — came in and I decided to harass him about his appearance in your fish-wrapping apparatus.

**Addison Stansfield • Costa Mesa, CA**



### Stansfield of Dreams —

When you're on a show like *Storage Wars*, it's no small feat to be considered "the shifty, reprehensible one" — and we're sure that appearing in MAD will do absolutely nothing to help that reputation. —Ed.

## REMEMBERING TOM KOCH AND LOU SILVERSTONE

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of two of MAD's legendary writers.



Tom Koch passed away on March 22 at the age of 89. From 1957 to 1995, Tom was one of MAD's most prolific and funny writers, contributing more than 300 pages to the magazine in his distinctive comedic voice. Perhaps Tom's most memorable MAD article was "43-Man Squamish" — fifty years after its initial publication, it remains MAD's most requested reprint. We honor Tom by running another one of his classic articles in this issue's installment of "The MAD Vault."

Lou Silverstone passed away on March 9, at the age of 90. Lou wrote over 180 articles for the magazine between 1962 and 1990, touching on all aspects of politics, sports and American culture, and is particularly remembered for his movie and television satires. His first article was a spoof of *Bonanza* ("BananaZ") in MAD #73 (1962). He also wrote "Bats-Man," the classic MAD takeoff of the 1960s Batman TV series in MAD #105. We'll pay tribute to Lou in a special edition of "The MAD Vault" in MAD #535.

We extend our deepest condolences to the families of Tom and Lou.



## LIVE AND LET JEDI

I read the new *Star Wars* sneak peek from my son's subscription. I thought to myself, you idiots used to be way more clever back when I subscribed in the 1980s. So I read the old *Star Wars* satires in my own collection. You weren't.

**Chris Donovan • Albany, Australia**

**Donovan and Dirty — We can totally identify with that thought process!** We thought to ourselves, there's no way this guy is as stupid and slop-brained as we think he is. So we read your letter again. You are! —Ed.

## MISSIVES: IMPOSSIBLE

I am a long-time reader of your magazine, and one of my favorite sections is Letters & Tomatoes. However, I feel that it is fairly obvious that the letters are just written by some of the lesser members of the Usual Gang of Idiots. It is, in my opinion, unkind to exclude these writers' names from the credits. I currently have a bet on with my friend (who for some reason believes the letters are from real people) that all the letters are fake. We agreed that if this letter is not published (which it won't be), I win the bet. **Simon Leek • Cambridge, MA**

**Leek is a Virgin —** Well, we have good news and bad news. The bad news is that you lose the bet. The good news, however, is that you don't have to pay! Because — just as you're sure the letters are made up — we are completely confident that this "friend" of yours doesn't actually exist. And as far as not printing the names of the response writers, we simply do that as a service to those staff members. Having to communicate with someone like Simon Leek is bad enough, without the rest of the world being privy to that shame. Thanks for reading! —Ed.

## TYPO NEGATIVE

I've been reading your magazine for about half a year. I recently believe that I have found a missprint on one of your ads for your books. It says "Greatest Writers." Obviously you meant to simply put "Writers."

**Conrad Liechty • Goshen, IN**

**Conrad to the Bone —** Accidents happen all the time in printing — even in this very issue! We mistakenly ran a letter from some moron in Goshen, instead of deleting his unintelligible ramblings. Oh well! Thanks for being such an eagle-eyed reader! See, we did it again! When we wrote "eagle-eyed reader," we MEANT to write "poop-shoed goof-nut." Hoo boy! It's gonna be one of those days! —Ed.

## THE DOOR IS A-JARRING

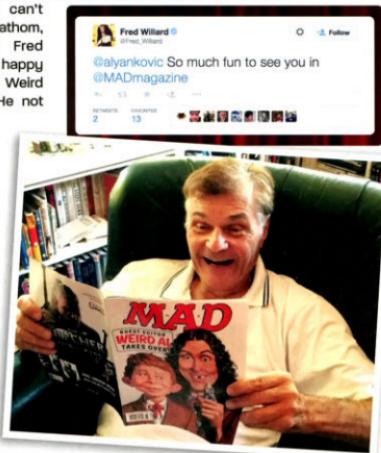
Many readers pointed out that the May 3 installment of *Non Sequitur* by Villey featured some MAD-centric names on the door of a law firm. When asked for a comment, Tom Richmond, Nick Meglin and Sam Viviano referred us to their lawyers. Irony!



# Letters and Tomatoes

## GOOD WILLARD HUNTING

For reasons we can't even begin to fathom, comedy legend Fred Willard was pretty happy about our recent *Weird Al*-centric issue! He not only tweeted about it, but also posted a pic on Facebook of himself enjoying it. They say nothing is permanent on the internet — but we suspect this tacit endorsement will haunt him!



## RETAIL OF WOE

Once I went to my bookstore and was looking for MAD. There was nothing there. I persuaded my parents to go to the next town, but still, no MAD! So now I'm wondering what's up with that? Is it because the bookstores don't like your idiotically funny magazine? (Likely!) Or is it because someone confused MAD with rotten trash? (Likelier!) Or maybe because MAD has thousands of "adoring" fans who buy the magazine before me? (Likeliest!)

**Annais Weiss • Framingham, MA**

Weiss-A-Roni — For a MAD reader, you're pretty perceptive! For one thing, bookstores don't just dislike MAD, they actively despise it — after all, MAD's awfulness tends to taint every other publication within a half-mile radius. Second, MAD is often confused with rotten trash because, well, it is rotten trash. And you're absolutely correct about other MAD fans beating you to the magazine (although "possibly lobotomized" might be a more accurate description than "adoring") — in fact, Framingham is widely known for its eager, ninja-quick MAD lovers. So here's what you do: pack a sleeping bag, pillow and a sack of Lunchables (gotta stay healthy!) and go set up camp in front of that bookstore. In a mere six or seven weeks, you'll be the first person in town to pick up MAD #535 — if you haven't been arrested for loitering first! — Ed.



## READER ALERT

If you had your letter printed in this issue, you better hold on to your beret, Frenchie — because you're being rewarded with some cool free stuff! You'll be getting *The Art of Rocksteady's Batman*, courtesy of our friends at Abrams Books; a Blu-ray combo pack of *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie: Sponge Out of Water* from our buds at Paramount Home Media Distribution; *Exploring Calvin and Hobbes*, courtesy of our pals at Andrews McMeel Publishing; a DVD copy of *Justice League: Gods and Monsters*, from our amigos at Warner Bros. Home Entertainment; and a blind-boxed *Mighty Morphin Power Ranger* vinyl figure from our chums at The Loyal Subjects! Write to us and have your (merchandise-based) dreams come true!



# MAD

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**Contributing Artists And Writers  
The Usual Gang of Idiots**

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In the 1980s, MAD Founder and Publisher William M. Gaines foolishly established **"The Soul of MAD"** — a collection of 12 MAD covers chosen for their idiotic uniqueness, artistic achievement or classic timelessness.

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**MAD**

WHO NEEDS YOU

By Norman Mingo

From "The Soul of MAD" Collection



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If this is a gift subscription, the print will be sent to the subscriber unless you specify that you wish to have it sent to you. KEYCODE: AZHMDUS

# THE FUNDALINI PAGES

## HOW THE GOP PLANS TO GET THE LATINO VOTE



Requiring all male congressmen to grow pencil-thin Zorro mustaches



Inviting everyone to Michele Bachmann's belated quinceañera



Letting Chris Christie eat at Chipotle five times a week instead of his usual three



Having Sarah Palin make her wild accusations in Spanish



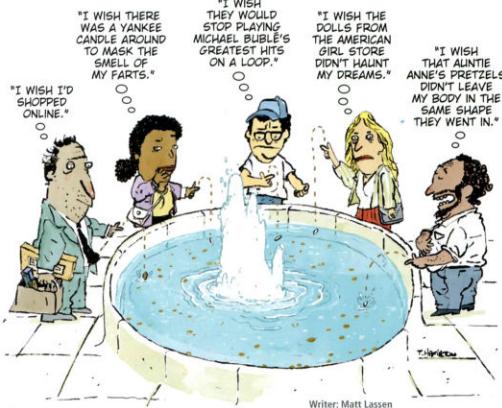
Booking Ted Cruz and Rand Paul to host the Latin Grammys



Rolling their r's when they argue against immigration r-r-r-reform

Writer: Matt Lassen Artist: Ward Sutton

## MOST POPULAR MALL FOUNTAIN WISHES



Writer: Matt Lassen Artist: Tim Hamilton

## A Walk in the Parkhurst



"Until we're done fixing my narcissism, can we call it 'Kevinissism'?"

Writer and Artist: Teresa Burns Parkhurst

## This Issue's Unfunded Kickstarter Campaign



### Help Me Fund a Zoo That Pairs Cartoon Animals

by Blaine Gribley

Ever wonder what Rocky & Bullwinkle would look like together in real life? Because it's all I can think about!

1% FUNDED \$0.16 PLEDGED 0 DAYS LEFT

Writer: Matt Lassen Photos: Dreamstime

## COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID IN A RAP BATTLE



Writer: Kenny Keil Artist: Jose Garibaldi

## A YEEZY BOOST AD THAT TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

### FINALLY, A SNEAKER BATS#%\* CRAZY ENOUGH FOR KANYE WEST.

SLEEK NANO-THREAD STITCHING  
Sure to come unraveled faster than  
Kanye at an awards show.

STAINLESS STEEL ZIPPER AND CANVAS DYNAMIC STRAP  
Because, let's face it, if you were smart enough to tie your own shoes, you wouldn't be dropping \$350 on these monstrosities.

PERFORATED VAMP TOE BOX  
It's unclear what this means, but it's something Kanye kept yelling during design meetings, so here you go.

BLENDED POLYURETHANE/  
POLYVINYL CHLORIDE SOLES  
Crafted from the very same  
cutting-edge synthetics  
that make up 60% of  
Kim Kardashian.



adidas

Writer: Kenny Keil



# THE FUNDALINI PAGES

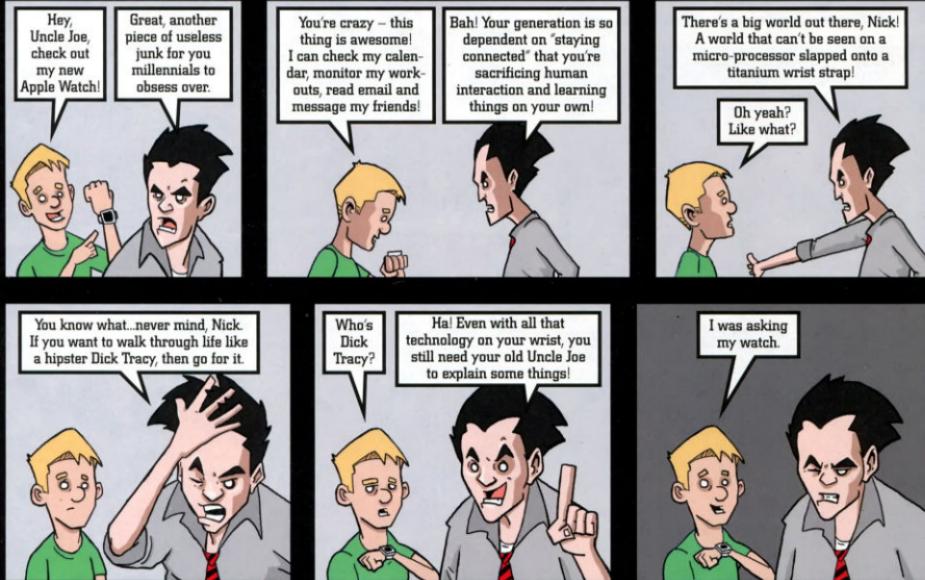
Pull My Cheney

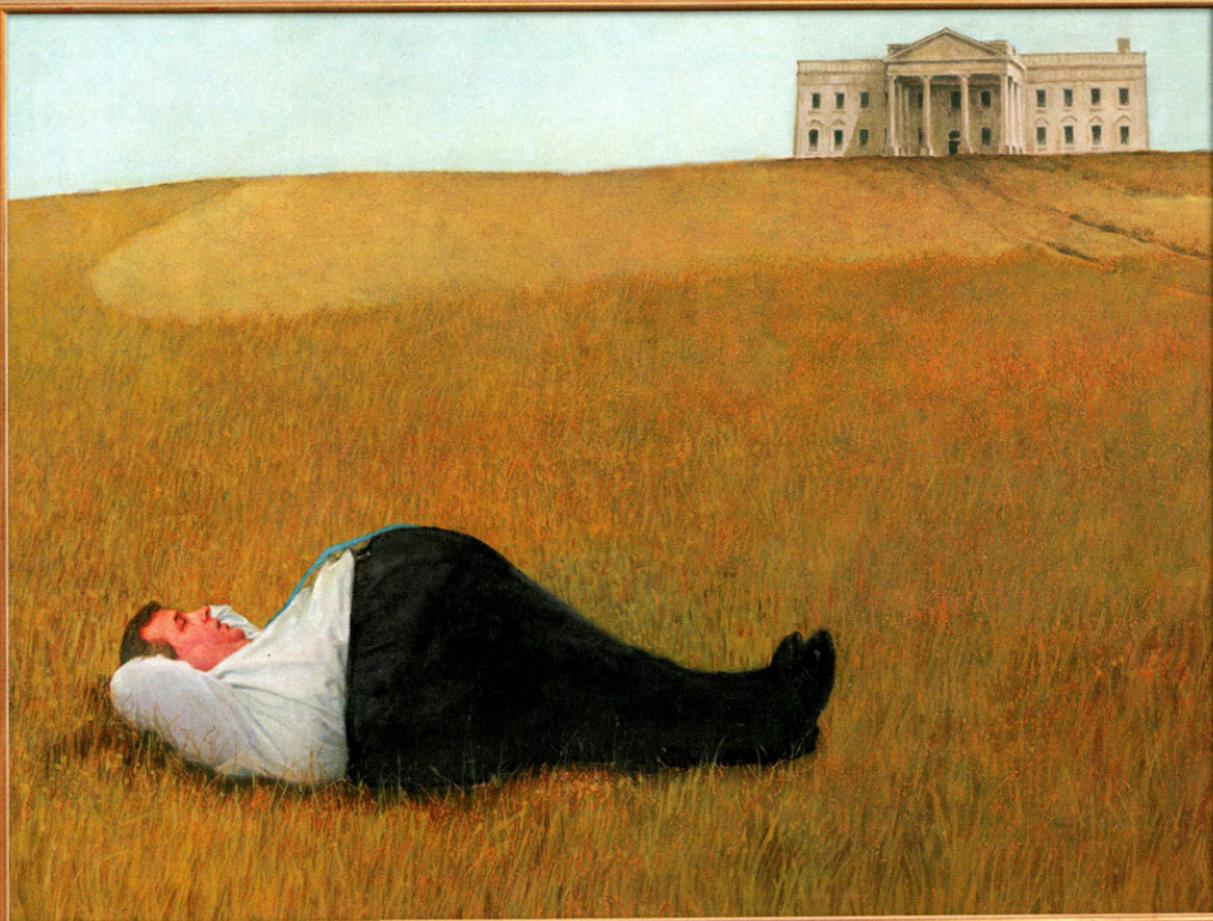


Writer and Artist: Tom Cheney

## BITTERMAN

More "Up for Whatever" Labels That Bud Light Should Get Rid Of





WINTER IN DUFFY

ARTIST: RICHARD WILLIAMS

Chris Christie's World

In recent years, we've followed the journeys of Don Draper, Rust Cohle and Walter White. Okay, cool characters. Nice shows. So does TV really need another series about a troubled, middle-aged white dude with issues? No, but we've got one anyway! Premium cable's latest brooding anti-hero is a tough Irish bruiser from South Boston who doesn't jump on the "smile train" much. This guy makes Vladimir Putin look like the giggling Pillsbury Doughboy. Meet

# RAY DREARYMAN

I'm Ray Drearyman, a Hollywood "fixer" who can fix anything — except weak scripts on my own series. This is one of them.

I'm a Los Angeles troubleshooter. I solve problems for the rich and famous. I bust heads, I speak in monosyllables. I communicate mostly through grimaces and pained expressions. Word is at next year's Emmys, I'm going to be presented with a special "Menacing Glare" award!

I'm in the thick of showbiz. I went into a Paramount pitch meeting yesterday to bat a few things around. Mostly heads! This morning I Louisville-Sluggered two agents, a commissary chef who gave me bad sushi and the studio exec who green-lit a Jonah Hill romantic comedy!

I have a wife, kids, a mortgage and a custom suit closet the size of Yosemite. My expenses are through the f#%\$in' roof. All in all I have a big monthly nut. It's called my father!

I'm Muckey Drearyman — the Grandpa from Hell! I'm the toughest f#@Sin' guy in AARP! Here's the deal: I just did 20 years at Wolpole prison, got out early, killed a priest, pistol-whipped two orphans, held up a pot store and then removed a stranger's spleen! And, oh yeah, I also text while driving! I came out west from Boston to reunite with my three sons. Now that I've seen how screwed up they are, I kinda wish I'd made a u-turn at Tulsa!

We're the "screwed-up" sons Muckey was talkin' about, Dreary and Punchy. We're emotionally damaged brothers who moved from Boston to L.A. for a better life. We're still emotionally damaged, but now at least we have great tans!

Being brain-damaged was tough in Boston, but not so noticeable out here. We seem to blend in with the agents and studio executives!

I'm Crabby, the difficult, premium-cable-channel wife. These are my two troubled teenagers, Cruller and Bimbette. Their father is sort of a mystery man who doesn't communicate much and is emotionally absent. Perhaps you've seen our family before. We were called *The Sopranos*!



Heavy and Loner here. We're Ray's trusted assistants who do all his dirty work. I'm an ex-Mossad Israeli bad-ass and my partner's an angry lesbian. When was the last time you caught a combo like us on TV? The fourth season of *The View*?

I'm Tezra Glopman and this is my partner, Leech. Our occupations: entertainment lawyers. In this series I'm obsessed with building a hospital wing in tribute to my dead wife. Yes, I'm a deeply religious man who, every week, honors the memory of my beloved wife right before engaging in some illegal sleazeball activity.

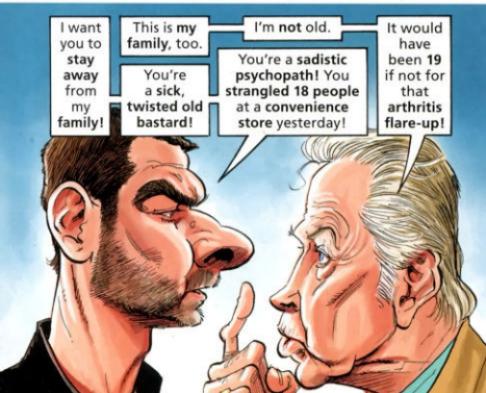
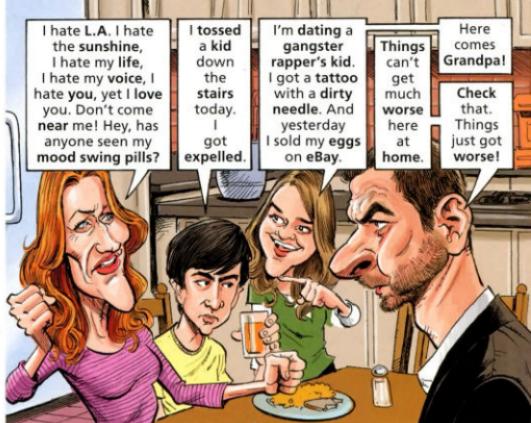
In case you're curious, in the Hollywood social structure, "entertainment lawyer" ranks in importance somewhere between "movie usher" and "back-up lounge singer."

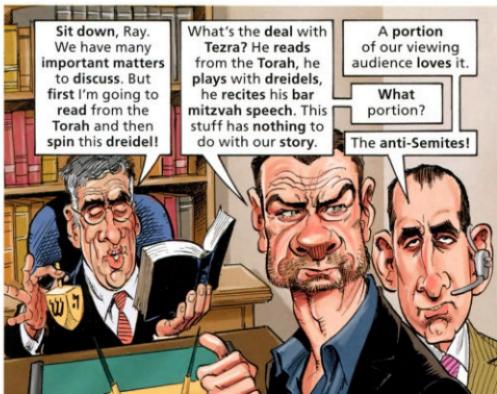
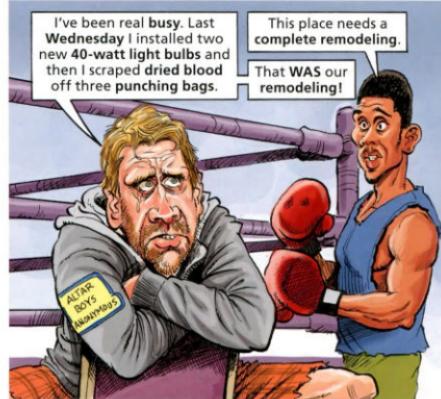
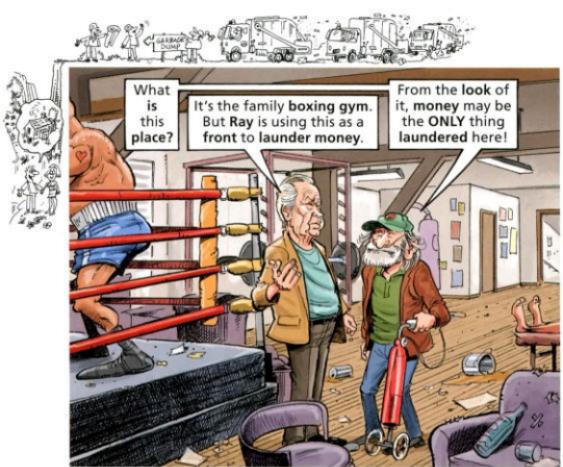
This series takes shots at South Boston, Hollywood and the Catholic Church. The Church gets slammed especially hard. Yes, we've made mistakes — but are we any worse than Hollywood? At least the Catholic Church is trying to correct our mistakes. Hollywood is still giving us sequels to *Dumb and Dumber* and *Horrible Bosses*!

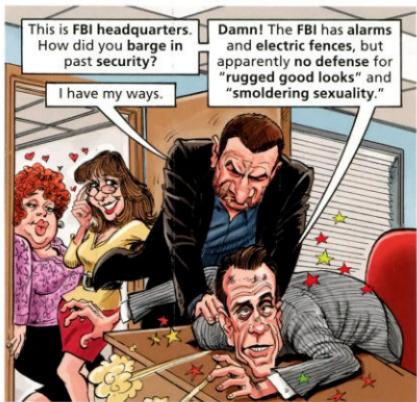
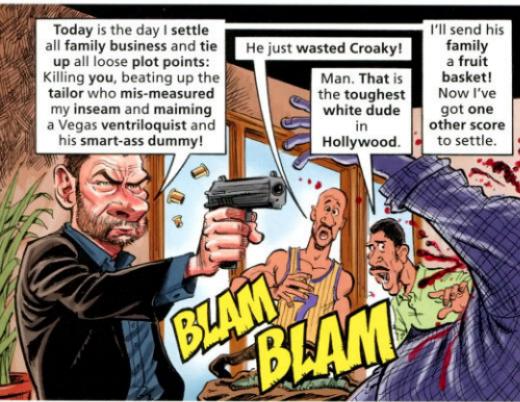
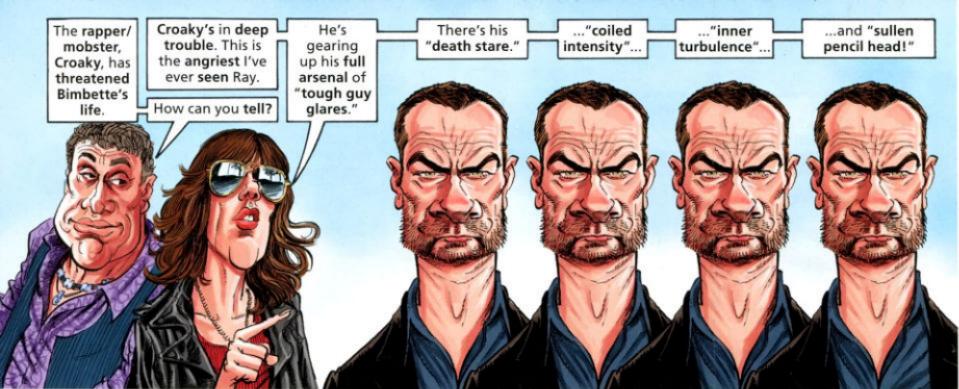
As a motivational guru I sense that Ray is a man who doesn't waste time. He walks in, he gets the job done, he splits.

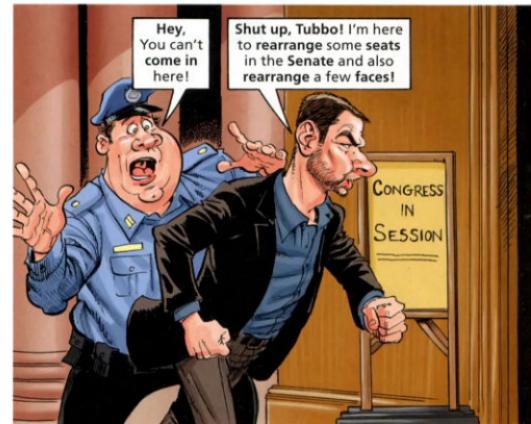
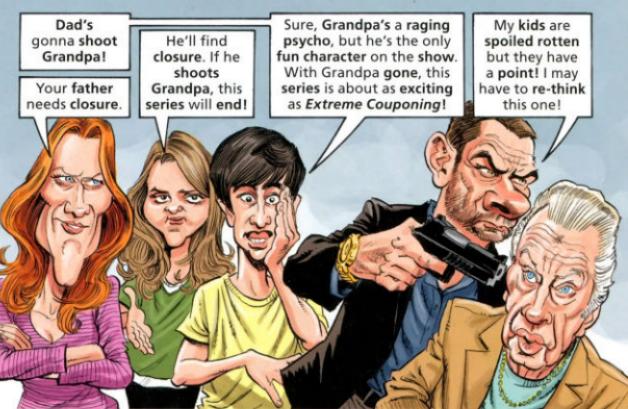
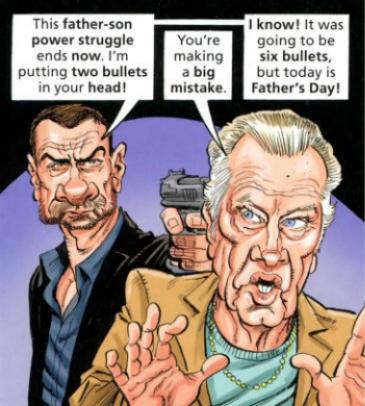
I speak from experience — that describes not only his work life, but his sex life!

Yeah, he's tough and a ball-breaker but he does some good in this town. Like what? He had a "little chat" with Russell Crowe and convinced him never to do another musical!









People are constantly looking for ways to make life easier. Just take a brief glance at #lifehacks on Twitter and you'll see all of the entirely unnecessary hints people are recommending, just to save two minutes of time. NO, we are NOT going to use a Tic-Tac container to store paper clips! But we WILL share our own list of entirely unnecessary...

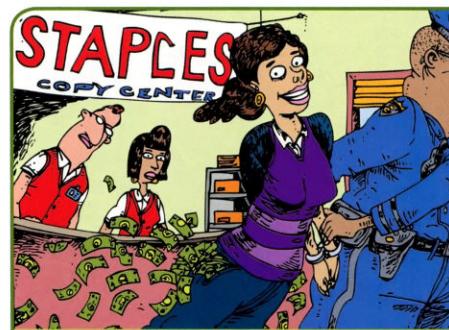
# amazing #lifehacks

that will totally  
change your

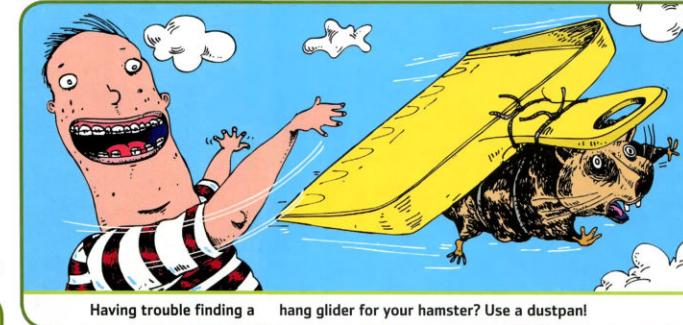
# #life!



Tired of all that money you spend on mouthwash going down the drain? Just spit it back into the bottle after every rinse!



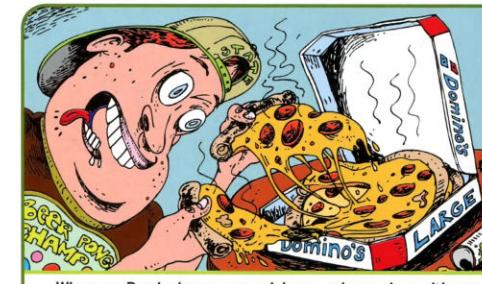
If you're down to your last dollar, simply go to Staples and print up some more. Once convicted of counterfeiting charges, you'll be living rent-free for up to 20 years!



Having trouble finding a hang glider for your hamster? Use a dustpan!



Talking on your cell phone while you drive is illegal, but eating a sandwich while you drive is perfectly okay — so hide your iPhone in a hoagie!



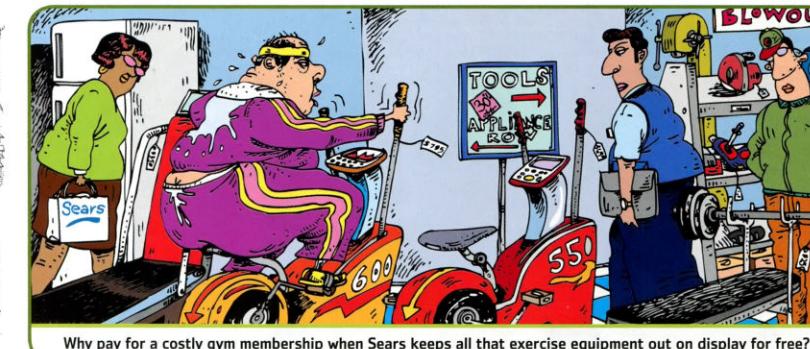
Whenever Domino's runs a special on one large pizza with any topping, tell them you want that topping to be an *additional* pizza!



If you ever walk into a Starbucks and there's nowhere to sit, tell the barista your name is "Fire." When they call you to pick up your order, lay low while everyone else runs out of the building in a panic. Now there'll be plenty of free seats — and maybe even a laptop or two!

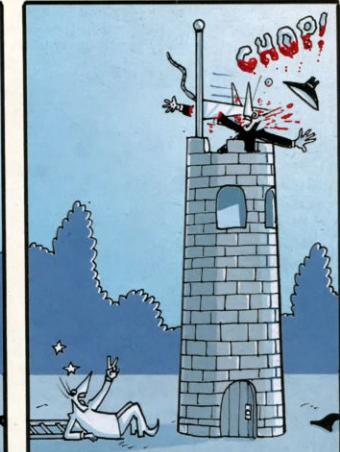
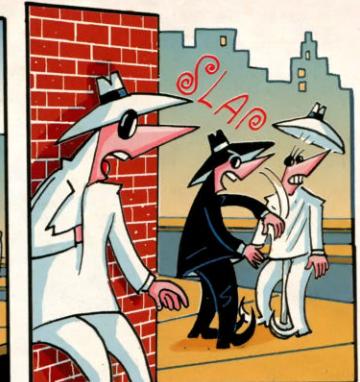


It doesn't matter where the stain is or what caused it — nine ounces of vodka will completely remove your capacity to give a damn about it!



Why pay for a costly gym membership when Sears keeps all that exercise equipment out on display for free?





• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

PROS AND CONCERTS DEPT.

It's summertime and that can only mean two things — summer concerts and poorly-executed MAD pieces ABOUT concerts! We held up our end of the bargain with these terrible tips for...

# Planning for Your Summer Music Festival

WRITER: KENNY KEIL

ARTIST: JOHN MARTZ



# Things have gone from bad to *verse*!

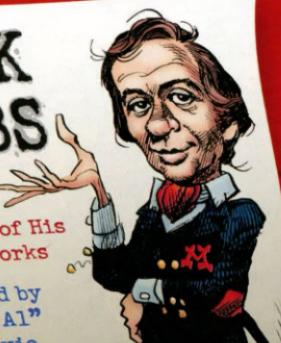


**MAD** Greatest Writers

## FRANK JACOBS

Five Decades of His  
Greatest Works

Foreword by  
"Weird Al"  
Yankovic



Includes over  
50 years' worth of  
song parodies, poem  
spoofs, twisted  
nursery rhymes  
and more!

Nearly 300  
pages personally  
selected by  
Frank Jacobs,  
"MAD's Poet  
Laureate"!

Foreword by  
"Weird Al"  
Yankovic!

Includes  
an interview  
with Frank by  
his long-time  
editor,  
Nick Meglin!

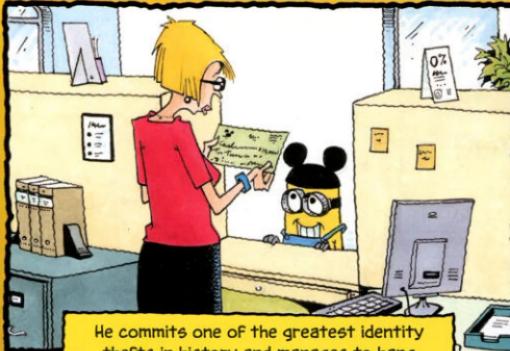
On Sale  
**NOW!**

Buy it today - because  
*rhyme* waits for no man!

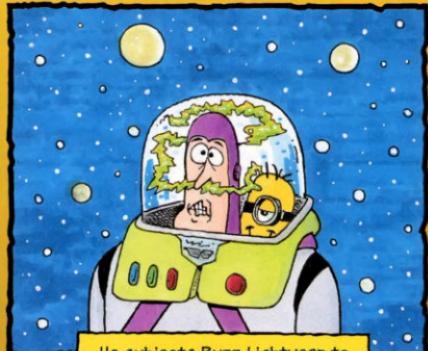
For over 20 years, John Caldwell has been relentlessly researching and chronicling the misdeeds, deliberate indiscretions and wicked transgressions of certain groups of individuals. His work has cast a cold journalistic eye on Priests, Veterinarians, Clowns, Lifeguards, Nuns and even Department Store Santas. With the following article, Caldwell breaks new ground, focusing for the first time on a group that was bad to begin with — and now has gone one step further in its ruthlessness. But there's more. These fiends do not exist in the real world, but rather in the shadowy realm of computer-generated animation. Worse still: they're yellow! Gird yourselves for what happens...

# WHEN MINIONS GO REALLY, REALLY BAD

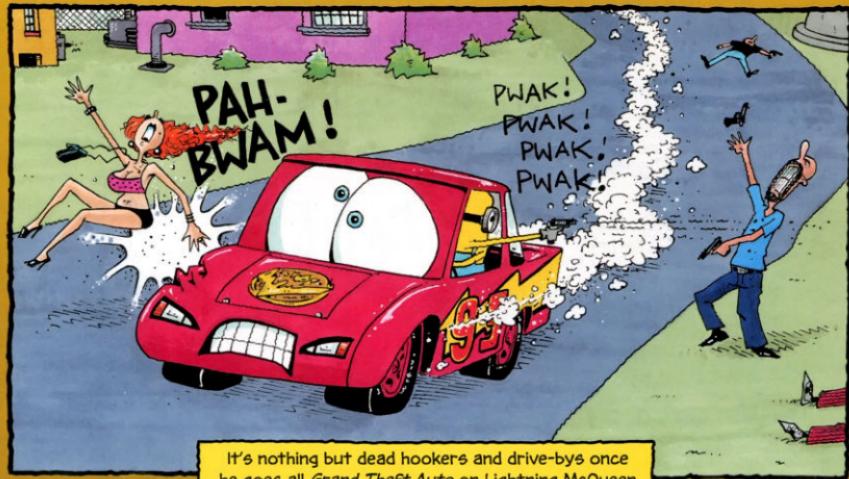
WRITER AND ARTIST: JOHN CALDWELL



He commits one of the greatest identity thefts in history and manages to hang bad paper all over the greater Orlando area



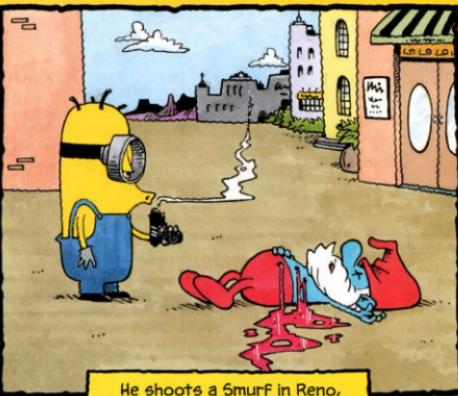
He subjects Buzz Lightyear to an intergalactic Dutch Oven



It's nothing but dead hookers and drive-by's once he goes all *Grand Theft Auto* on Lightning McQueen



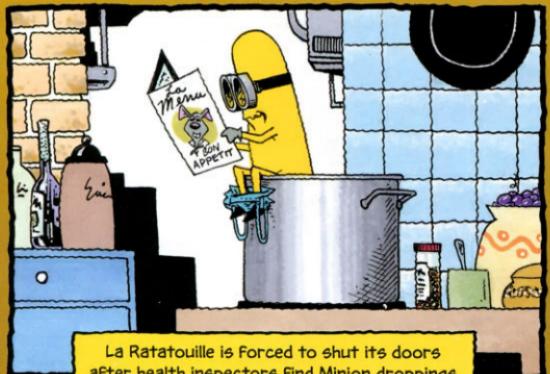
He plants the seed For what will become Dexter's Meth Lab



He shoots a Smurf in Reno, just to watch him die



He plants a record number of hickies on a spellbound Snow White



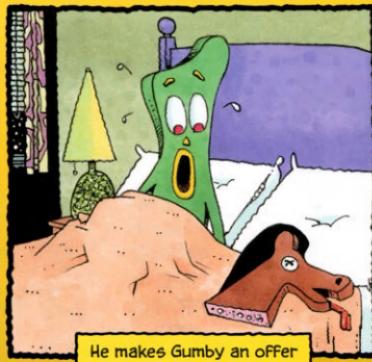
La Ratatouille is Forced to shut its doors after health inspectors find Minion droppings in the Moroccan Chickpea Bisque



After one chorus too many, he does indeed "let it go"



He gleefully snitches on Mario  
For having an expired Green Card



He makes Gumby an offer  
he can't refuse



He gigolos an aging, twice-widowed  
Olive Oyl out of her life savings



He exploits destitute, elderly  
characters by promoting bum fights



Bottom line? Don't even bother looking for Waldo



PLANET TAD!!!!!! SlapChat: Aggressive Text-Messaging Hamazon.com: Online Ham Shopping

<http://www.planettad.com/profile/06-2015>

# PLANET TAD!!!!!!



» NAME: TAD   » AGE: FOURTEEN   » TOES: 10 (AT LAST COUNT)

## JUNE 1, 2015

I don't understand who would ever go to *Jurassic World*. Haven't there been at least three major incidents where *Jurassic Park* facilities were sites of horrific deaths? I feel like, if *Mickey Mouse* had gone crazy and bitten dozens of people's faces off three separate times, at a certain point, people would stop going to *Disneyland*.



## JUNE 4, 2015

So, my bike got stolen today. I rode it to the *Shop-Mart* and left it outside unlocked for, like, a minute, and when I came back, it was gone. When I told my mom, she rolled her eyes and said, "I'm not even going to say it." And my little sister Sophie said, "What? That you told him so? I'll say it: She told you so."

I really hate when Sophie decides to help out like that.

## JUNE 2, 2015

So, today my friend Chuck and I rode our bikes up to the *Shop-Mart* to get sodas, and we saw this sign outside:

**NO SHIRT,  
NO SHOES,  
NO SERVICE.**

## JUNE 3, 2015

At dinner tonight, my mom said, "Tad, be careful with your bike — I saw Mrs. Goldberg at the store, and she said someone's been stealing bikes in our neighborhood left and right." And I said, "OK." And she said, "I'm serious — she tells me three other kids have had their bikes stolen lately." And I said, "Fine, I get it." And she said, "You really need to make sure you use the lock we got you." I swear, sometimes my mom thinks I'm an idiot.

## JUNE 5, 2015

Today I walked down to the *Shop-Mart* and put up this sign: I don't even have any photos of my bike, so I had to draw it as best I could. I don't think it's a very good drawing.

## JUNE 6, 2015

I walked back up to the *Shop-Mart*, and my sign is gone. I considered putting up this sign, but decided not to:

## STOLEN SIGN!

**STOLEN  
BIKE**

## JUNE 7, 2015

I watched a little bit of that show *"Pretty Little Liars"* today. Totally disappointing. I was hoping it would be about tiny, attractive elves who just scream fake facts all day long.



## JUNE 10, 2015

So, tonight at dinner, my mom said, "So, um, Tad — not to dwell on this, but are you positive that that's your bike?" And I said, "Yes. It's the exact same color, and kind, and size." And she said, "Are you positive?" And I said, "Yes, I'm positive." And she said, "Absolutely positive?" And I said, "Why do you keep asking that?" And she said, "Because I was at the *Shop-Mart* today, and saw this." And she showed me a photo she'd taken of a reward poster:



And I had two thoughts. The first was, "Wow, that's a much better poster than the one I made. I wish I'd thought to put details about when my bike was stolen on mine. And offered a reward. And included a way for people to contact me. Those are all really good ideas."

My second thought was, "Uh-oh." Because it did look exactly like my bike. And it was stolen at exactly the time I took my bike back. Which could have just been a coincidence — I mean, maybe someone had their bike stolen from the exact same store where, at the very same time, I happened to be taking an identical bike back from a thief.

But it wasn't. I checked the serial number. It's the bike on the poster.

I have accidentally stolen someone's bike.

And my mom tells me that tomorrow, I have to return it.

## JUNE 8, 2015

Amazing news! I got a call from Chuck today — he was up at the *Shop-Mart*, and he said, "Come quick — your bike's here!" I ran down there, and sure enough, my bike was out front — clearly, the thief who stole it had ridden it up there and left it outside. And, amazingly, it wasn't even locked! You'd think a bike thief would be more careful — but then again, maybe he figured he was the only bike thief in the neighborhood, so it was totally safe.

In any case, I got on it and rode home as fast as I could. I could hear the thief shouting at me, "Hey, come back!", but I just rode faster. Serves him right for stealing my bike!

## JUNE 9, 2015

So, today, my mom noticed that my bike was back in the garage and said, "I thought you said your bike was stolen." And I told her the whole story of finding the bike at the *Shop-Mart* and taking it back. And she said, "Are you sure it was your bike?" And I said, "Um, yeah." And she said, "OK..." but in that tone of voice where you could hear the three little dots after the "OK."

## JUNE 10, 2015

So, I emailed the address on the poster, and said, "I have your bike — when can I bring it by?" And the bike's owner gave me his address, so I rode it over there today. It turns out, the kid who owned the bike wasn't home, but his mom was, and she said, "Are you the Good Samaritan who found Elliott's bike?" And I said, "Yeah." And she said, "Where did you find it?" And I suppose I could have told her that I was the one who accidentally stole it.

But instead, I just said, "Um, just a few blocks away from the *Shop-Mart*? I guess the thief didn't take it far." And she said, "Well, thank you so much for finding it and being kind enough to return it!" And I said, "No problem." And she said, "Let me get my purse — you deserve a reward!" And I said, "No, I don't." And she said, "No, I insist!" And I said, "Really, it's fine." And she was about to press \$50 into my hand when her son came home and said, "That's him! That's the kid who stole my bike!"

And you'll never believe it, but I told them all about the mix-up, and we all laughed, and then Elliott's mom invited me to dinner, and we had a great time.

You'll never believe it, because that's not what happened. Instead, I just turned and ran as fast as I could, and will now just try never to walk anywhere near that neighborhood or the *Shop-Mart* ever again.

Also, I will never, ever forget to lock my bike. Ever.

## LATEST TWEETS

**PLANET TAD** @PlanetTad When they were making "America's Got Talent", did anyone even try to point out that, technically, it should be "America Has Talent"?

**PLANET TAD** @PlanetTad The story of "The Princess and the Pea" is mostly about making absolutely sure you marry someone who's going to be difficult and demanding.

**PLANET TAD** @PlanetTad If I ever invent something, I'm going to name it something starting with "X", to make Scrabble easier.

**PLANET TAD** @PlanetTad I think it's weird that Mother's Day is just a day, but sharks get a whole week.

**PLANET TAD** @PlanetTad If they were being strictly accurate with their titles, there would only be one "Final Fantasy" game.

## NICKNAMES

- Tad
- ThunderCat
- The Beast
- The Tad-inator
- Tadillac
- Tad the Impaler

(I'm trying to make those last five catch on)

## ACTIVITIES

Tad is crumpling paper into balls and telling people he's making origami snowballs

## LIKES



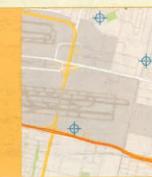
## DISLIKES



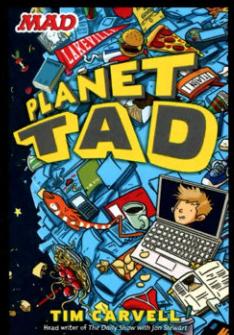
## PLACES

Tad visited:

- Home
- Shop-Mart
- Bike Owner's House



# COMPLETE YOUR MAD LIBRARY (AND PROUDLY DECLARE YOURSELF A COMPLETE IDIOT!)

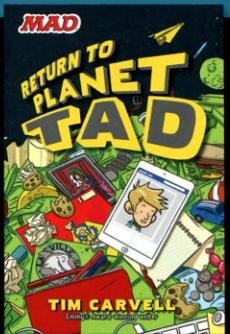


MAD'S GREATEST ARTISTS:  
DAVE BERG

PLANET TAD

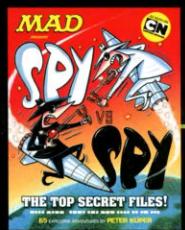
Includes classic "The Lighter Side of..." strips from 1961 to 2002! Plus Dave's rare early MAD work and MAD artists' tributes to "The Lighter Side of..."!

239 pages of all-new adventures! From the executive producer of *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*!



RETURN TO  
PLANET TAD

If you loved the first *Planet Tad* book, you'll really love this one! 232 pages of all-new Tad misadventures!

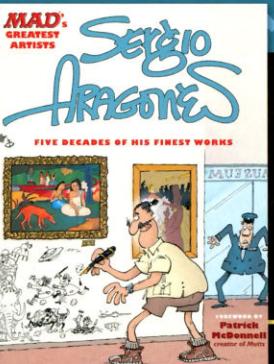


MAD'S GREATEST ARTISTS:  
MORT DRUCKER

Includes many of Mort's greatest movie satires, plus essays by Michael J. Fox, Steven Spielberg, J.J. Abrams and others! Also a classic, vintage pull-out poster!

SPY VS. SPY:  
THE TOP SECRET FILES!

Special digest size!  
Includes 65 explosive adventures by Peter Kuper!



MAD'S GREATEST ARTISTS:  
SERGIO ARAGONES

Celebrate 60 years of MAD with 256 pages hand-picked by MAD's creators and its most famous fans! Featuring essays by Judd Apatow, Whoopi Goldberg, Tony Hawk and more!



SPY VS. SPY:  
FIGHT TO  
THE FINISH!

Includes new, original, never-before-seen Sergio art! Plus an 18"x24" pull-out poster featuring 500 of Sergio's favorite marginals!



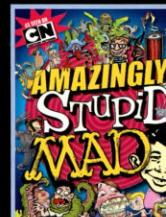
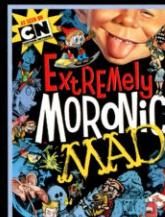
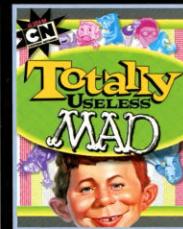
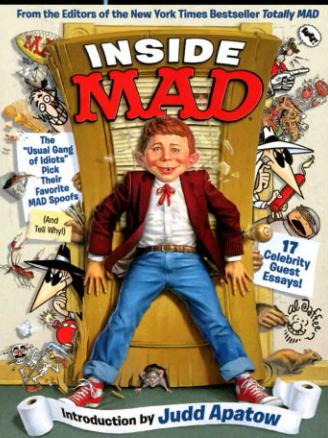
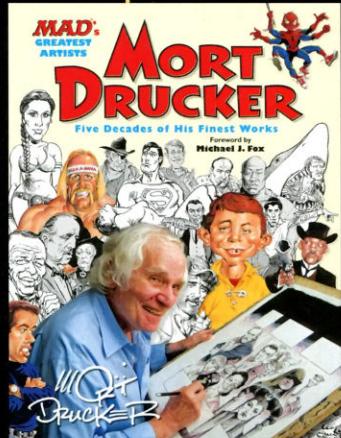
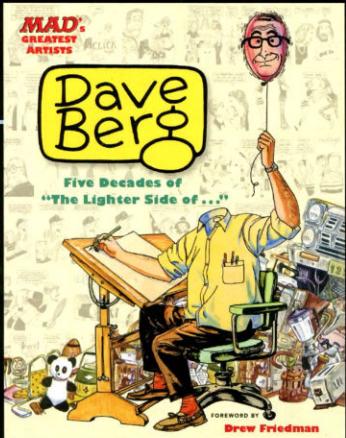
SPY VS. SPY  
VOLUME 2

Special digest size!  
Includes 95 diabolical adventures by Peter Kuper!

AND  
MORE!

Includes every Spy vs. Spy adventure from 1987 to 2007!

Six pointless collections, perfect for fans of MAD on Cartoon Network!



## ON SALE NOW

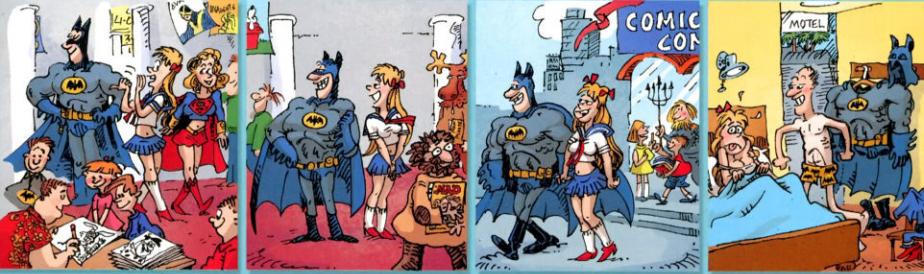
IN THE BOOK SECTION OF BOOKSTORES WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD — DUH!

Sergio Aragones  
presents

# AN MAD



# LOOK AT COSPLAY



WRITER AND ARTIST: SERGIO ARAGONÉS

COLORIST: JIM CAMPBELL







The average length of a baseball game in 2014 was three hours and eight minutes. And during most of that time, nothing happened, unless you consider waiting for a pitch to be thrown "something." A committee was formed (slowly) to address the problem, which introduced a handful of new rules that haven't helped much. That's where we come in with...

# NEW IDEAS TO *SPEED UP* *Baseball*

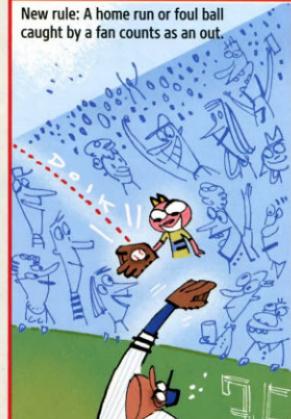
Allow pitchers to throw three baseballs at once, thus enabling them to strike out a batter with one pitch.



Shorten the commercial breaks between innings by limiting erectile dysfunction ads to one every three innings.



New rule: A home run or foul ball caught by a fan counts as an out.



To avoid that interminable walk to the mound, catapult relief pitchers in from the bullpen.



Bring in the base paths 70 feet to tighten up time-consuming ground ball plays.



To avoid the non-stop uniform, glove and cap adjustments, make everyone play naked.





The average length of a baseball game in 2014 was three hours and eight minutes. Yes, now more than ever, our great national pastime offers a welcome lengthy respite from our frenetically-paced modern world. It's truly bizarre then that a committee was hastily formed to make suggestions to speed up the refreshingly torpid pace of the game. So here are our recommendations for...

## NEW IDEAS TO SLOW DOWN

# Baseball

Have the grounds crew roll out the tarp at even the *hint* of a rain cloud.



Use instant replay on every single play, just to be 100% sure.



Relocate the on-deck circles to Section 7 of the stadium parking lot.



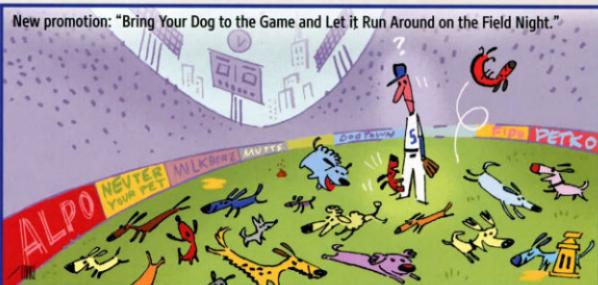
Keep reminding players that a base on balls is called a "walk," not a "jog."



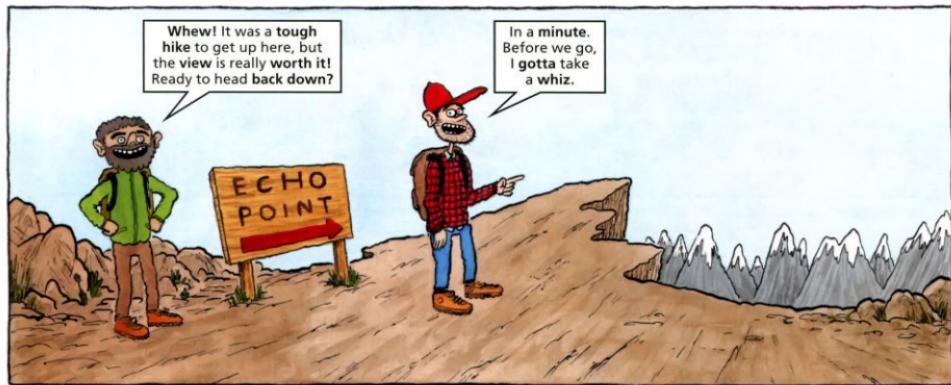
After a suspiciously long home run, stop the game and test for steroids right there.



New promotion: "Bring Your Dog to the Game and Let it Run Around on the Field Night."



# THE HAUNTING LEGEND ~~OF~~ ECHO POINT





## GOOF OF PURCHASE DEPT.

For the benefit of those who have been on planet Mars since the decade's latest sales gimmick was born, the ad to the left is not trying to sell you a coffee maker for less than 30 bucks. Rather, it's trying to sell you a coffee maker for considerably more, and then telling you how to get part of your money refunded. Now you may ask why manufacturers just don't lower prices by the amount they seem anxious to give back anyway. The answer? That would really cost them money! But manufacturers figure that by making you go through a time consuming and complex (not to mention annoying!) rigamarole, the odds favor something going awry and they will never have to give any of your money back. Confused? Unconvinced? Then see for yourself as we now expose...

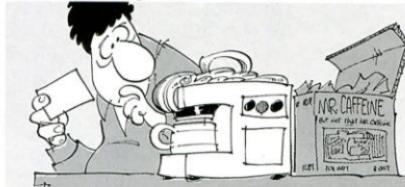
## WHY 999 SHOPPERS OUT OF 1,000 NEVER COLLECT THOSE MANUFACTURERS' REBATES

Among 1,000 shoppers chosen at random...



...183 will never get the product at all because they don't realize they have to take enough cash to the store to pay full price, and then engage in a major hassle to try to get some of it back.

Of the remaining 666...



...46 will succeed in getting the coupon, only to find the model they just bought is not the one qualifying for the rebate.

Of the remaining 817...



...151 will attempt to get the rebate coupon and will be told that the store has just run out of them—but will not return the purchase price of the item, which has already been paid for.

Of the remaining 620...



...12 will be mugged in an alley next to the store and robbed of the product, the rebate coupon, the sales slip and maybe, their shoes.

003  
Of the remaining 608...



...32 will buy more than one product offering a rebate, thus setting the stage for total failure when the coupons get mixed together and are ultimately all mailed to the wrong manufacturers.

Of the remaining 509...



...40 will permanently install their purchase with its serial number facing the wall before they read that it must be copied onto the rebate application.

Of the remaining 397...



...23 will successfully grab the box back from the trash man, and then discover that they don't know what a "Proof Of Purchase" label looks like.

Of the remaining 356...



...52 will buy a defective product, and then learn their warranty isn't any good unless they return the item with the same sales slip and register receipt they planned to use to collect the rebate.

Of the remaining 576...



...67 will never know if the date is printed on the register receipt because the lettering is a little too faint for them to read and a lot too faint for the manufacturer to accept.

Of the remaining 469...



...72 will put the empty box out with the trash, forgetting that the "Proof Of Purchase" label printed on the side of it must also be mailed to the manufacturer.

Of the remaining 374...



...18 will give the product to someone as a gift, and then face the embarrassing job of trying to get the box back to obtain that vital "Proof Of Purchase" label.

Of the remaining 304...



...65 will successfully manage to assemble the rebate coupon, proof of purchase label, sales slip and register receipt, only to realize they have no idea where they're supposed to send it.

Of the remaining 239...



...27 will thoughtlessly transpose the manufacturer's post office box number and zip code, resulting in delivery to someone thousands of miles away who has no idea what all those papers are.

Of the remaining 158...



...11 will remember to put a stamp on the envelope but then carelessly leave it in their coat pocket when they take the garment to the dry cleaners.

Of the remaining 138...



...52 will assume they've mailed their rebate application when they thoughtlessly drop the envelope into a laundry chute, bank depository or public trash can.

Of the remaining 81...



...15 will have their application returned through the mail and get the cheery news the manufacturer moved and conveniently forgot to leave a forwarding address.

Of the remaining 212...



...54 will do an acceptable job in getting all of the correct documents into a properly addressed envelope and then will forget to put a stamp on it before they drop it in a mailbox.

Of the remaining 147...



...9 will prove to be the owners of new puppies that love to chew anything made of paper into tiny little bits—especially the outgoing mail.

Of the remaining 86...



...5 will leave their applications for the mailman, not knowing he's a grump who shows anger over making pickups by stuffing them in a storm drain.

Of the remaining 66...



...65 will have forgotten about the whole thing before their rebate check arrives six months later and will toss out the unopened envelope, thinking it's an ad.

Most people who want to see *Minions* are looking to kill a couple of hours watching a goofy, over-the-top cartoon. The problem is that some

people are goofy, over-the-top cartoons themselves. And when those people see it, they'll be so affected, they'll just have to write about it!

# Despicable People Live-Tweet "Minions"



**Kim Jong-un**

@DaddysBoy

Short bumblers with terrible haircuts, bent on world domination? I haven't felt this parodied since "The Interview"!



**Chris Brown**

@ChrissyFit

I like how they clearly love each other, but they still sometimes beat the s%&\* out of each other. Realness!



**Dr. Oz**

@QuackQuack

Their apple-and-banana diet MUST be their secret to living for thousands of years...I'll have to recommend that on my next show!



**Donald Trump**

@MeMeMeMeMe

Gru calls his lackeys "Minions"! Nice! Starting now everybody on my payroll shall be known as "Trump Minions!"



**Bill Cosby**

@YoureGettingSleepy

They're organized, loyal and too unintelligible to reveal a secret. If they can mix a drink, they're hired! #notfinishedyet #totallyinnocent



**Kris Jenner**

@Daughters4Sale

They're weirdly smooth, they're half-naked, and they talk high-pitched nonsense...the Minions could be Kardashians!



**Jenny McCarthy**

@ScienceShmience

I can't help but think these poor Minions' afflictions could have been avoided if only they hadn't been vaccinated!



**Brian Williams**

@PantsOnFire

What a trip down memory lane to see the '68 Orlando Villain-Con! I remember covering it like it was yesterday!



**Robert Durst**

@BillionaireButcher

Those poor Minions – I KNOW what happens when you allow your evil past to be explored on film! #screwjarecki #checkyourmics



**Bill Belichick**

@AllYouCanCheat

Gru wanted them to steal the moon for him – it should be easy for them to help me steal a few playoff games!



**Roger Ailes**

@SpinCity

Hmm. They're cute, speak gibberish and work for nothing...slap blonde wigs on them and I've got a whole new lineup for Fox & Friends!

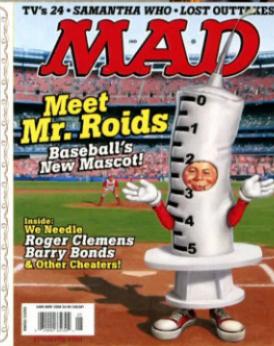
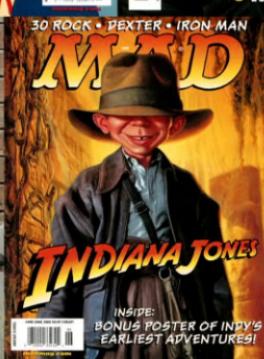
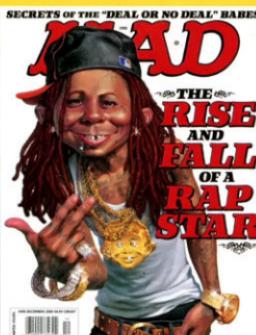


**Justin Bieber**

@ImmaBigBoy

Finally – an entourage that would make me seem tough and deep-voiced!

# CATCH UP ON THE STUPIDITY YOU WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO MISS!



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# THE STRIP CLUB

WHAT IF DOG  
WAS ONE OF US?



KENNY KEIL

## Nightmare Zone

KC Green

IF IT'S YELLOW,  
LET IT MELLOW



IF IT'S BROWN,  
FLUSH 'ER DOWN



IF IT'S RED,  
YOU'LL SOON BE DEAD



IF IT'S BLUE...



WHAT DID  
YOU DO?!



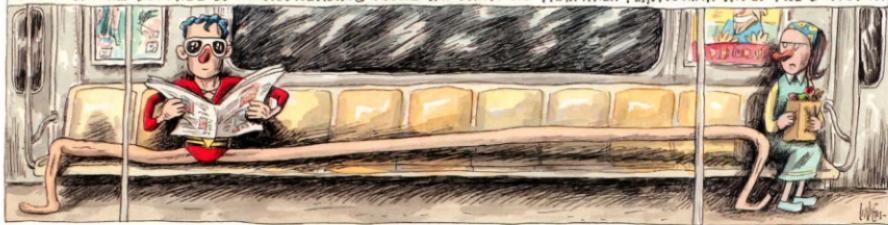
WHAT DID YOU DO?!



KC GREEN

## HATS OFF

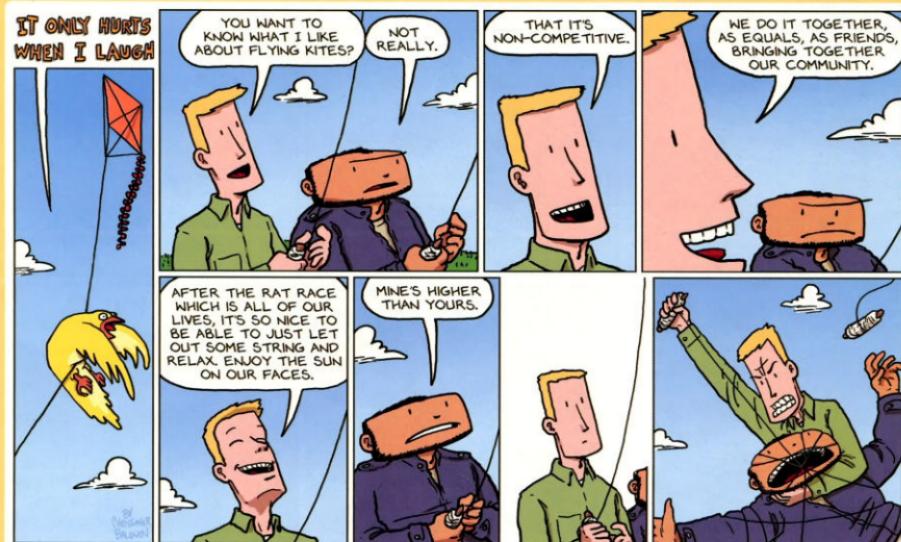
NEVER IS THE SCOURGE OF MANSPREADING MORE INFURIATING THAN WHEN PLASTIC MAN RIDES THE D TRAIN.



LINERS



KEVIN WERTH



CHRISTOPHER BALDWIN

THIS WEEK ON...

## DEADLY SURVIVAL



OUR VEHICLE JUST DIED...

LEAVING US STRANDED IN THE WILDS OF THE FRIGID YUKON TERRITORY!

IF YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF IN A SIMILAR SITUATION, WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO SURVIVE UNTIL HELP ARRIVES.

I'M GOING TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING USEFUL IN THE TRUCK.



WE'VE GOT A LOT TO WORK WITH: MATCHES, EXTRA GASOLINE, A FLASHLIGHT, POPCORN KERNELS, SOME WHISKEY...



THERE'S ONLY AN HOUR OF DAYLIGHT LEFT, SO WE HAVE TO QUICKLY COMPLETE FOUR IMPORTANT TASKS!



FIRST: GENERATE HEAT. SECOND: MELT SNOW INTO WATER. THIRD: SIGNAL FOR HELP. AND F-

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THOSE THREE AT THE SAME TIME! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS...



BLOW UP THE TRUCK!!



WOOHOO! NOW, WHAT WAS OUR FOURTH TASK?

TRY... TO FIX... THE DANG TRUCK!



OOH! I SMELL POPCORN!



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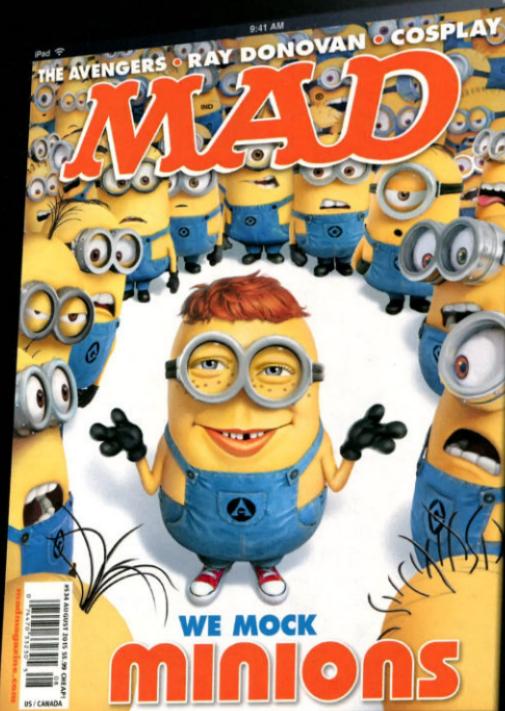
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Sure, superheroes have super powers, but not necessarily a super sense of style. Vanquishing evil is one thing, but doing so while looking good is quite another. Unfortunately, superheroes often embarrass themselves in this all-important area, as you'll see when...

# FASHION POLICE TAKES ON

# AVENGERS AGE OF ULTRON

The Ghost of  
Joan Rivers



Brad  
Goreski

Giuliana  
Rancic

Guest Host  
Tim Gunn

## IRON MAN



So sad. I heard that  
Tony Stark peed  
himself and now his  
fly is rusted shut!



He looks like what  
would happen if  
C-3PO and a Sony  
Playstation had  
a bastard child!



His is the only suit  
that you have to  
take to a blacksmith  
for tailoring!

It's the perfect outfit  
for anyone who wants  
to look like a six-foot-  
tall Oscar statue!

## THOR



Yoo-hoo! Thor! Let  
me hammer this home:  
Your outfit sucks!



Scraggly beard, unkempt  
hair, pretentious cape...  
is he a superhero or a  
Williamsburg hipster?

You might say that his  
fashion sense has gone  
from bad to Norse!



You tell me: How can he  
walk on the red carpet  
when he's wearing it  
on his back?

## THE HULK



## HAWKEYE



## CAPTAIN AMERICA



## NICK FURY



## BLACK WIDOW



## THE VISION



## SCARLET WITCH



## ULTRON

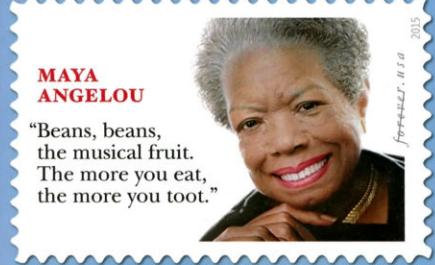


## QUICKSILVER



# The Best of The Idiotical

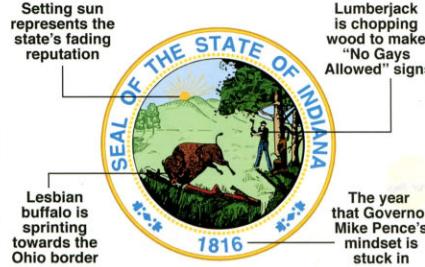
## USPS ISSUES CORRECTED MAYA ANGELOU STAMP



## HOW TO TELL IF YOUR KRAFT MAC & CHEESE CONTAINS METAL FILINGS



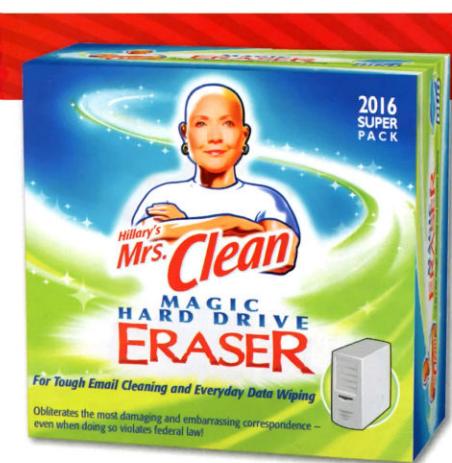
## MAD EXPLAINS THE INDIANA STATE SEAL



## The Startling Similarities and Differences Between MARCH MADNESS and UTAH REINSTATING THE FIRING SQUAD



Lots of shots taken	✓	✓
Brent Musburger will be providing color commentary	✓	-
The NRA has an office pool going on it	✓	✓
If there's a long line at the concession stand, you might miss all the action	✓	✓
Substitutions allowed	✓	-
To take a family of four costs a fortune	✓	✓
It's as American as apple pie	✓	✓



## 7 Effects of California's Water-Use Restrictions

The Dodgers will now be forced to jam themselves into one cramped post-game bathtub

All "Employees Must Wash Hands" signs are now just for decoration

Mickey Rourke finally has an excuse for showering once every three months

There are now extensive background checks and waiting periods to purchase a Super Soaker

Disneyland's Splash Mountain is now just a bone-dry, 50-foot death drop

The LAPD has been instructed to cut down on the vigorous beatings, so as to not need so much hydration afterwards

A resourceful Leonardo DiCaprio will drink the pooled navel sweat of the models in his harem



# THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR FROM YOUR UBER DRIVER

DEATH AND TAXIS DEPT.

FUNNY CONINCENCE,  
OUR "SURGE PRICING"  
KICKED IN JUST AS YOU GOT  
IN THE CAR! THATLL BE \$75!

SORRY -  
COMPANY POLICY THE  
METER STILL RUNS EVEN  
WHEN I'M TAKING DOWN  
THE OTHER DRIVER'S  
INSURANCE INFO.

SCOOT  
OVER - I'M GOING  
TO PICK UP THIS  
ATTACHMENT!

HEY THANKS FOR  
NOT USING LYFT - I CAN'T  
STAND THE WAY THEY SNARED ME  
IN THAT VEHICULAR HOMICIDE  
INVESTIGATION!

THOSE "DETOUR"  
SIGNS ARE JUST  
SUGGESTIONS!

GUESS WHAT  
I'M STEERING  
WITH...

IT'S GREAT THAT  
UBER IS NOW IN SEE  
COUNTRIES! IF I HAVE TO  
GO ON THE LAM AGAIN,  
I'VE REALLY GOT  
OPTIONS!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT  
THAT SMELL IS, BUT YOU  
HAVE TO PROMISE TO GIVE  
ME A 5-STAR RATING  
AFTERWARDS!

IT'S FUNNY - PEOPLE  
DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BACKGROUND  
CHECKS FOR DRIVERS, BUT MY  
PAROLE OFFICER IS WORKING  
THEM HAVE TOO MANY!

UHHH - ALL THESE  
LANSUTS AGAINST UBER  
BY THE TAXIS! IT MAKES  
ME SO MAD, I JUST WANNA  
RAM A CAB HEAD-ON,  
YOU KNOW?

I USED TO BE  
AN UBER PASSENGER.  
JUST LIKE YOU, THEN, ONE DAY  
I KILLED MY DRIVER, TOOK OVER  
HIS ROUTE AND HERE  
WE ARE!

ARTIST: TOM BUNK  
WRITER: MATT LASSEN

WHAT POWERFUL  
FIGURE WILL  
CONSERVATIVES BE  
MOST THRILLED  
TO SEE LEAVE THE  
PUBLIC STAGE?

## HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

There's a powerful figure who for years has energized the left, while consistently embarrassing the right. For many conservatives, the power of this movement was no laughing matter. However, after a very successful tenure, an era is coming to an end — and many are delighted that the curtain is finally falling.



FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

B FOLD BACK SO "A" MEETS "B"

### Reagan National Airport DEPARTURES



CONSERVATIVES EVERYWHERE WILL BE RE-  
JOICING, WATCHING DEMOCRATS AS THEY BEGIN  
STEWING OVER A TOP COLLEAGUE'S PLANS TO DEPART

A

WRITER AND ARTIST: AL JAFFEE

B

WHAT POWERFUL  
FIGURE WILL  
CONSERVATIVES BE  
MOST THRILLED  
TO SEE LEAVE THE  
PUBLIC STAGE?



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



JON  
STEWART

A B

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